

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES  
MAY 17, 2002

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, May 17, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Members present:** Mrs. Sara Fox, Mrs. Joanna Heidel, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg (via conference call), Mr. Henry Hudspeth, and Mr. George Walker.

**Members absent:** Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Mr. Lawrence Warren, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

**Staff in attendance:** Dr. Olon Ray, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Mrs. Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mr. Danny Seal, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Ms. Frankie Walton-White.

**Guests in attendance:** Ms. Ann Peyton – Mississippi State Department of Education and Dr. Bill Smith – IHL.

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., and all guests present introduced themselves. Due to lack of a quorum no official action could be taken. The Board held a work session and discussed items listed on the agenda.

Mrs. Joanna Heidel gave the invocation.

After a discussion, Mr. Walker announced that he was going to call a special meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2002, at 1:00 p.m. and carryover on Thursday, May 30, 2002, at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Olon Ray expressed his appreciation to Dr. Lott and the Gulf Coast staff for hosting the SBCJC meeting on April 26, 2002.

Dr. Ray shared that he would be out of the SBCJC office for the next few weeks. He will be traveling the state to visit each of the community and junior colleges.

Dr. Ray announced that the SBCJC staff is working to hire a Program Specialist to work with Mississippi displaced workers. The position will be funded with federal Workforce Investment Act monies. The Program Specialist would work closely with the colleges to coordinate with other agencies to bring services to the public.

Dr. Ray stated that Dr. Stuart Rosenfeld with RTS, Inc., will present an initial report of the Strategic Plan being developed for the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) at the May 8, 2002, SWDC meeting. A final report will be presented at the June 2002, Council meeting.

Dr. Ray reported on a meeting on May 14, 2002, of WIA participants to work toward improving coordination of efforts on behalf of workforce training.

Dr. Ray thanked the Board for his Retirement Celebration held last evening.

Dr. Ray stated that he would recommend at the special called meeting that the Board rescind an SBCJC policy that addresses non-duplication of upper level courses.

## REPORTS/ACTION

### Workforce Report

Mr. George Walker reported that Mr. Stuart Rosenfeld with, RTS, Inc., delivered an initial report to the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) during the May meeting. The final report will be presented at the June Council meeting.

Mrs. Joanna Heidel expressed concern over information contained in the final report that indicates that some colleges are assessing an administrative fee to businesses receiving training. The colleges receive reimbursement for the training through project requests. She stated that she felt that the Legislature would be outraged to learn that the colleges are assessing a fee to the companies inasmuch as they are appropriating funds to provide the training. She suggested that the Board review this process and if an administrative fee is justified and charged that it be uniform for all colleges. She asked that the item be placed on the special meeting for immediate action.

Mr. Henry Hudspeth suggested that the Board invite Dr. Clyde Muse and Dr. Howell Garner to attend the May 29, 2002, meeting to discuss the rationale for charging industries an administrative fee for training. This would allow the colleges to explain where the charge originated and how the monies are utilized.

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher stated that the Mississippi Legislature appropriated \$300,000 for each college to cover administrative costs of their Career Centers. Since some colleges do not use their entire allotment, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert suggested the way those funds are distributed might be examined during the upcoming Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) Legislative Planning Workshop. She stated that the funding might be distributed on production and not just divided evenly among the colleges.

### EDNET Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported on an EDNET meeting held on May 9, 2002. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the counter proposal that WorldCom had made to EDNET to close out the existing contract and partnership. After a presentation by Martin Mangold, the EDNET Board reached the consensus that there are approximately sixteen separate issues that need to be addressed and clarified with WorldCom before a vote to approve their proposal could be made. The EDNET Board's negotiating team: President, Mary Ann Franklin, Sam Keys, Martin Mangold and Frank Spencer were asked to work with WorldCom's lawyers to resolve issues and hopes this will allow for a quick resolution and settlement.

EDNET hopes to distribute the Request for Proposal for a new private partner next week.

The next scheduled EDNET Board meeting is set for Monday, May 20, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. in Jackson.

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Lawsuit

Dr. Ray stated that a final accounting report on the IHL-USM Gulf Park Campus Lawsuit is being completed. He also said that Mississippi Community and Junior College Public Foundation Chairman, Mr. Al Sleppy would be invited to attend the June SBCJC meeting. At that meeting the SBCJC will present Mr. Sleppy with a plaque in recognition of his service to the Foundation.

Proprietary School Report

Mr. Danny Seal updated the Board on the activities of the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration. During the April 18, 2002, meeting the following actions were taken:

- 17 new instructor applications were approved
- 8 agent applications were approved
- 1 new Program of Study was deferred: Virginia College – Massage Therapy A.A.S.
- Certificates of registration for DSC Training Academy, Tupelo (Initial Annex Approval), and SEC Training Academy (Initial Application) were approved.

Mr. Seal announced that MTA Truck Driving School of Flowood closed on January 14, 2002. The school did a teach out of all students and made accommodations for records.

He also reported that a major issue in the truck driver training area has arisen with the bankruptcy of Student Finance Corporation. Franklin College has suspended classes until additional funding sources can be found.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is set for June 20, 2002, at 1:00 p.m. in Jackson.

Other

Dr. Randall Bradberry discussed the reservation process for the MACJC Trustees' Conference set for June 28 and 29, 2002, at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi. He distributed a copy of the tentative schedule for the meeting. The June SBCJC meeting will be held on Friday, June 28, 2002, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

  
George Walker, Chairman

  
Olon E. Ray, Executive Director